GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3349
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
SANKHYA VAHINI PROJECT
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has entered into a joint venture project with IU net to set up Sankhya Vahini Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said company has not invested anything in cash and is likely to become major shareholder;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether tendering process was not adopted while mentioning the prices of equipment by IU net;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof; and

g) the steps the Government propose to take to give a fresh look to this joint venture keeping in the view the huge investment in this project ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a)&(b) As on date, no Joint Venture (JV) Agreement has been entered into by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the corporatised entity of Deptt. of Telecom Services/Deptt. of Telecom Operations, with IU-Net to set-up Sankhya Vahini Project.

(c)&(d) According to the draft Joint Venture Agreement, the initial contribution to the equity of the Joint Venture shall be in the form of equipment. In the event of any further subscription amount to be paid beyond the value of the equipments, the same shall be tendered in cash by IU-Net. As per the draft Joint Venture Agreement, IU-Net will hold 49% equity in Sankhya Vahini India Limited.

(e)&(f) The process of procurement of the equipments is a part of JV Agreement, which is yet to be finalised.However, as per proposed draft Joint Venture Agreement, the equipments shall be procured by IU-Net at the most competitive prices in keeping with the transparent procedures followed by Carnegie Mellon University so as to provide maximum possible benefit to the Joint Venture Company. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) shall have an option to nominate official (s) who shall participate in the negotiations and finalisation of the equipment orders by IU-Net.IU-Net`s purchases shall be scrutinised and certified by recognised international valuers recommended by the President of IU-Net and agreed to by BSNL.

(g) BSNL and the Government will take appropriate decision taking all aspects into consideration.